

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claim 20 and cancel Claims 21-22 as follows, without prejudice or disclaimer to continued examination on the merits:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Cancelled)
15. (Cancelled)
16. (Cancelled)
17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) An optical communication device, comprising:

a plurality of optical remodulators, each being configured to receive a respective one of a first plurality of optical signals, and output a respective one of a second plurality of optical signals in response to a corresponding one of said first plurality of optical signals, each of said second plurality of optical signals being at a respective one of a plurality of wavelengths, selected ones of said plurality of wavelengths being spectrally spaced from one another by substantially 0.8 nm; and

an optical combiner configured to receive said second plurality of optical signals and supply said optical signals to an optical communication path;

wherein each of said optical remodulators further comprises an external modulator, and a laser, said external modulator being configured to modulate an optical output from said laser in response to one of said first plurality of optical signals to thereby generate one of said second plurality of optical signals, and

wherein at least one of said plurality of optical remodulators includes an electro-optical converter, and an encoder circuit, said electro-optical converter being configured to sense one of said plurality of first plurality of optical signals, and generate an electrical signal in response thereto, said electrical signal being supplied to said encoder circuit, one of said second plurality of optical signals being generated in response to an output of said encoder circuit.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously Presented) An optical communication device in accordance with claim 20, further comprising a plurality of fiber Bragg gratings, each of which being coupled to said optical communication path, each of said plurality of fiber Bragg gratings being configured to select a corresponding one of said second plurality of optical signals.

24. (Previously Presented) An optical device in accordance with claim 20, further comprising a plurality of filters, each of said filters being coupled to said optical communication path, and being configured to select a corresponding one of said second plurality of optical signals.

25. (Previously Presented) An optical device in accordance with claim 20, further comprising an optical amplifier coupled to said optical communication path, said optical amplifier having first and second stages.

26. (Previously Presented) An optical device in accordance with claim 20, further comprising a plurality of transmitters, each of which being configured to supply a corresponding one of said first plurality of optical signals to a respective one of said plurality of optical remodulators.

27. (Previously Presented) An optical device in accordance with claim 20, further comprising a plurality of encoder circuits, each of which being provided in a respective one of said plurality of optical remodulators, whereby each of said second plurality of optical signals carries encoded data in response to an output from a respective one of said plurality of encoder circuits.